

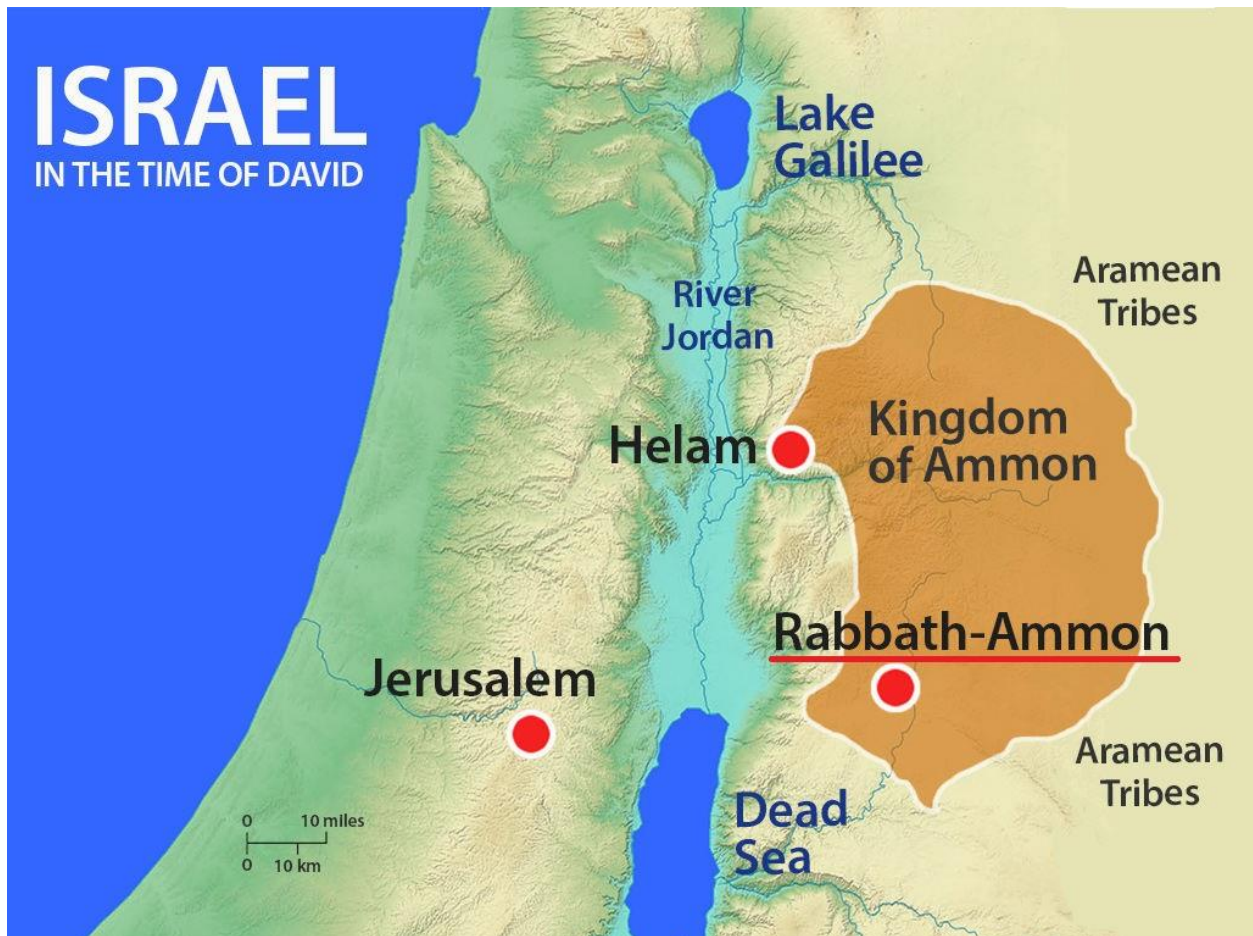
## 2 Samuel 11

Verse 1

**Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they brought destruction on the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed in Jerusalem.**

In the last chapter, the Ammonites went back to their fortified city but Joab did not attack the city. Why not? We don't know for sure but it may have been close to the winter season and a difficult time to wage war. It was now the following spring and Joab renewed his siege against Rabbah.

See map 1105



The text says "But David stayed in Jerusalem". Did David have a reason to stay home? As is often the case we can't say for sure but whatever his motive was for staying home it would turn out to be a disaster for him.

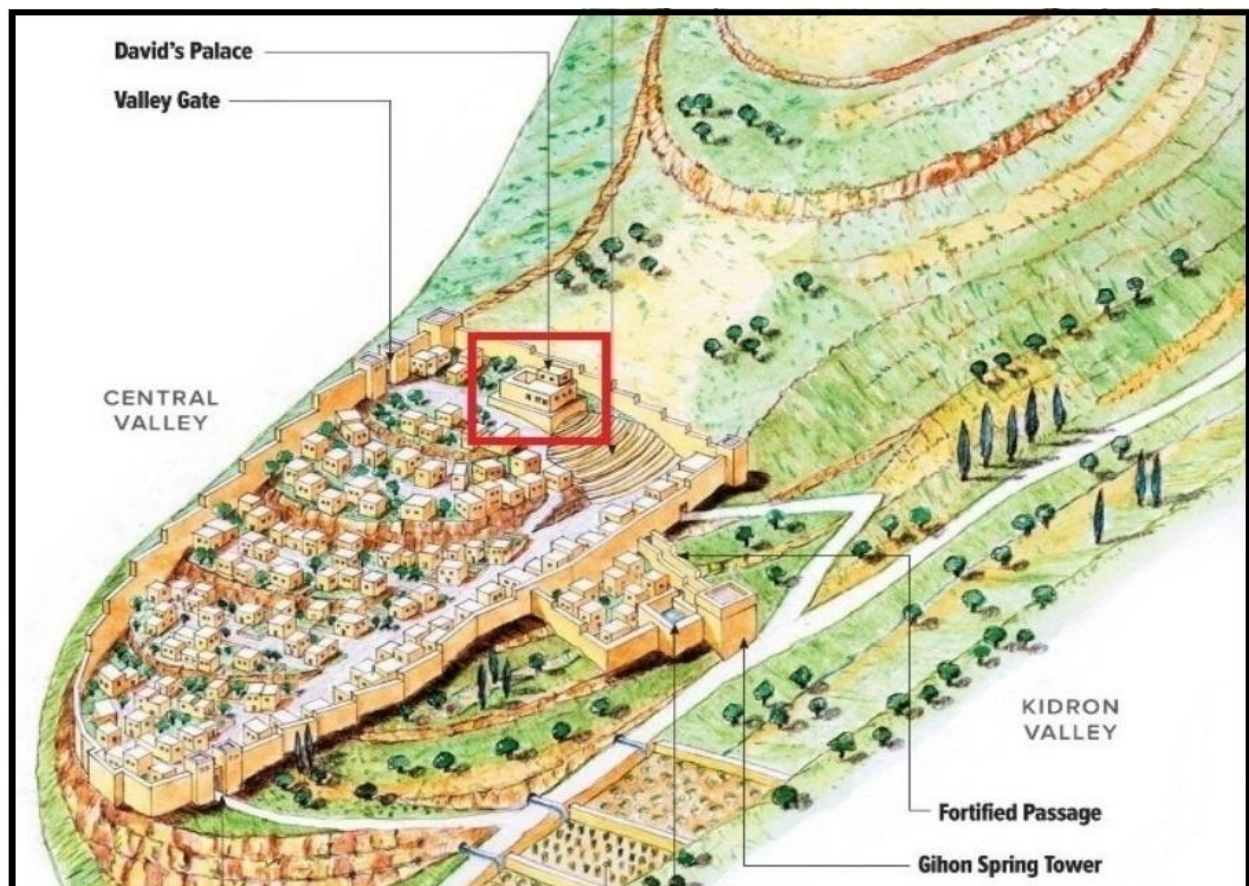
Verses 2 -5

<sup>2</sup> Now at evening time David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. <sup>3</sup> So David sent *servants* and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers and had her brought, and when she came to him, he slept with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> But the woman conceived; so she sent *word* and informed David, and said, "I am pregnant."

<sup>2</sup> Now at evening time David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.

David's palace was above all the houses of his select officers so he had a bird's eye view of their roof tops.

See Pic 1110



<sup>3</sup> So David sent *servants* and inquired about the woman. And *someone* said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

The names of Bathsheba and Eliam are worded somewhat different in 1 Chronicles.

See 1 Chronicles 3:5

<sup>5</sup> These were *the children* born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon, four by Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel;

Uriah and his father were numbered among David's "mighty men". This explains why Uriah's residence was close to the palace. David's lack of respect for one of his mighty men is hard to comprehend.

<sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers and had her brought, and when she came to him, he slept with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house.

David already had at least 6 wives, this should have been sufficient, don't you think.

The text does not indicate that Bathsheba was an unwilling participant so she was guilty of the same sin as David.

Bathsheba and David had to purify themselves because under the law a man and woman were unclean after having coitus.

See Leviticus 15:18

<sup>18</sup> If a man sleeps with a woman so *that* there is a seminal emission, they shall both bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

<sup>5</sup> But the woman conceived; so she sent *word* and informed David, and said, “I am pregnant.”

Both David and Bathsheba were guilty of a capital offense.

See Leviticus 20:10

<sup>10</sup> If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

Verses 6 -13

**<sup>6</sup> Then David sent *word* to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” So Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah came to him, David asked about Joab’s well-being and that of the people, and the condition of the war. <sup>8</sup> Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house, and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the king’s house, and a gift from the king was sent after him. <sup>9</sup> But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. <sup>10</sup> Now when they informed David, saying, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?” <sup>11</sup> And Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Should I then go to my house to eat and drink and to sleep with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing.” <sup>12</sup> Then David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go *back*.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the day after. <sup>13</sup> Now David summoned Uriah, and he ate and drank in his presence, and he made Uriah drunk; and in the evening *Uriah* went out to lie on his bed with his lord’s servants, and he *still* did not go down to his house.**

**<sup>7</sup> When Uriah came to him, David asked about Joab’s well-being and that of the people, and the condition of the war.**

David asked Uriah these questions in order to cover up his real purpose in sending for him.

In the past David had been very honorable concerning his dealings with Saul and many others (protecting the herds and flocks of fellow Israelites) but over time David had lost his way and he is now acting like a corrupt politician.

**<sup>8</sup> Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house, and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the king’s house, and a gift from the king was sent after him. <sup>9</sup> But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.**

David wanted Uriah to go home and sleep with his wife so the child might appear to be Uriah’s.

These servants were probably the same ones that brought Bathsheba to the palace so they knew what David was up to and informed him that his plan had failed.

<sup>10</sup> Now when they informed David, saying, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?” <sup>11</sup> And Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Should I then go to my house to eat and drink and to sleep with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing.”

The reference to the temporary dwellings tells us that the Feast of Tabernacles is in progress so it is now the fall time.

See chart 1115

Jewish Feasts						
Feast	Scripture	Date Observed	Roman Calendar	Sabbath	Offerings	Commemorates
Passover	Lev. 23:05	Nisan 14 At twilight	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Oldest son saved from death
Festival of Unleavened Bread	Lev. 23:6-8	Nisan 15-21	March/April	Day 1 & 7 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 28:16-24	The hasty flight from Egypt
Offering the First Fruits	Lev. 23:9-14	After the Sabbath	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Beginning of the barley harvest
Feast Of Weeks (Pentecost)	Lev. 23:15-22	50 days after F.F.	May/June	Special Sabbath	Numbers 28:26-31	beginning of the wheat harvest.
Festival of Trumpets	Lev. 23:23-25	Tishri 1	September	Special Sabbath	Numbers 29:1-6	Civil New Year
Day of Atonement	Lev. 23:26-32	Tishri 10	Sept/Oct	Sabbath	Numbers 29:7-11	Forgiveness of sin for the nation
Tabernacles Temp. Shelters	Lev. 23:33-34	Tishri 15-22	Sept/Oct	Day 1 & 8 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 29:12-38	Wilderness End of harvest

This indicates that six months had passed since the siege began.

Uriah was an honorable man and refused to enjoy the comforts of home while all of Israel was living in booths and his lord (Joab) and his servants were all camping in the open field because they were in battle against the Ammonites.

**<sup>12</sup> Then David said to Uriah, “Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the day after. <sup>13</sup> Now David summoned Uriah, and he ate and drank in his presence, and he made Uriah drunk; and in the evening *Uriah* went out to lie on his bed with his lord’s servants, and he *still* did not go down to his house.**

When Uriah refused to spend the night with Bathsheba it forced David to take a different approach to conceal his sin. David extended Uriah's leave, hoping that he would spend the night with his wife. However, this effort to get Uriah together with Bathsheba also failed.

Verses 14 - 21

**<sup>14</sup> So in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup> He had written in the letter the following: “Station Uriah on the front line of the fiercest battle and pull back from him, so that he may be struck and killed.” <sup>16</sup> So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he stationed Uriah at the place where he knew there *were* valiant men. <sup>17</sup> And the men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David’s servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died. <sup>18</sup> Then Joab sent a *messenger* and reported to David all the events of the war. <sup>19</sup> He ordered the messenger, saying, “When you have finished telling all the events of the war to the king, <sup>20</sup> then it shall be that if the king’s wrath rises and he says to you, ‘Why did you move against the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? <sup>21</sup> Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did a woman not throw an upper millstone on him from the wall so that he died at Thebez? Why did you move against the wall?’—then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite also died.’”**

**<sup>14</sup> So in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. <sup>15</sup> He had written in the letter the following: “Station Uriah on the front line of the fiercest battle and pull back from him, so that he may be struck and killed.”**

This evil plan of David was reprehensible but having Uriah carry the message that will end his own life makes his action even more deplorable.

We all have dark periods in our life but the question we all have to ask ourselves is how dark is the darkness that is within us.

David was ready to commit murder in order to cover up adultery. David had fallen to a level that is hard to imagine.

**<sup>16</sup> So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he stationed Uriah at the place where he knew there were valiant men. <sup>17</sup> And the men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David's servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died.**

This blind loyalty of Joab to David is like that of a gangster to a mafia boss. The death of these military men was nothing else than murder. This cover up has now cost the lives of many men, not just the intended victim.

**<sup>18</sup> Then Joab sent a messenger and reported to David all the events of the war.....  
<sup>21</sup> then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite also died.'**

This communication was also a ruse to make everything appear legit but all that David really wanted to know was that Uriah had been killed in battle.

Verses 22 - 25

**<sup>22</sup> So the messenger departed and came and reported to David everything that Joab had sent him to tell. <sup>23</sup> The messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us and came out against us in the field, but we pressed them as far as the entrance of the gate. <sup>24</sup> Also, the archers shot at your servants from the wall; so some of the king's servants died, and your servant Uriah the Hittite also died."  
<sup>25</sup> Then David said to the messenger, "This is what you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another; fight with determination against the city and overthrow it'; and *thereby* encourage him."**

**<sup>25</sup> Then David said to the messenger, "This is what you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another'; fight with determination against the city and overthrow it'; and *thereby* encourage him."**

What David said about the sword is true but their deaths did not happen by chance. This happened because David had lost his way and Joab was willing to do whatever the king wanted rather than being brave and standing up for what was right.

Have you noticed how many people around Donald Trump have followed the weakness and lack of moral clarity of Joab and have been found guilty of crimes?

See pic 1020



The web of lies and criminal activity can be seen by those who have eyes to see.

Verses 26 - 27

**<sup>26</sup> Now when Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband. <sup>27</sup> When the *time of mourning* was over, David sent *servants* and had her brought to his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the Lord.**

**<sup>26</sup> Now when Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband.**

Do you think Bathsheba knew (at that time) or ever figured out that David was responsible for her husband's death?

They would have 4 more children together after the death of their first born so it seems unlikely that she ever figured it out.



**But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the Lord.**

In the next chapter we will see the judgment that God made concerning David's sin but we will see the results of that verdict for many years to come.